

## LOEB URGES NEW SCHEME TO JOLT SCHOOL TEACHERS

A delegation of prominent men and women will drop into the meeting of the school board late today in order to be present should Jake Loeb, president of the school board, try to get away with his new scheme to control the school teachers of Chicago.

The school teachers now retain their positions through the merit rule. If a teacher is not told during one school year that her work is unsatisfactory she is retained for the next.

But now Jake Loeb would change all that. He desires the power to drop any teacher summarily. In this way those who are against his idea, say the teachers, will be thrown back into the old political system that proved so dangerous to the public school system before the merit system was adopted.

Among those who will fight against Loeb slipping over his little game are Mary McDowell, Jane Addams, Mrs. Margaret Robins, Mrs. Jos. T. Bowen, Grace Abbott, Sophonisba Breckenridge, Mrs. Geo. Bass, Harriet Vittum, C. E. Merriam, R. M. Buck, John C. Kennedy and A. A. McCormick.

In a communication to the school board the above citizens, together with a score of others, said in part:

"The board of education has adequate machinery at the present time for determining competency and for eliminating the incompetent. Before teachers are permanently appointed they must pass a rigorous examination, must serve a probationary period of not less than four months and must then serve not less than three years before receiving permanent certificates from the Chicago board of education. This should be sufficient opportunity to determine competency, but if any incompetents pass all these tests, they may still be brought to trial before the committee of the board of education and, if

found incompetent on the evidence presented, may be dismissed from the system. Any incompetency now in the schools is due primarily to the attitude of the trial committee of the board of education.

"The merit clause now under attack was adopted by the board of education about twenty-five years ago to put an end to an intolerable condition. For months before each annual election of teachers all possible pressure (political and otherwise) was exerted to secure their re-election. This produced demoralization of both the board's legitimate business and of the work of the schools. In sheer desperation members of the board would leave the city to get away from the pressure. The board finally adopted the present merit cause to end this intolerable situation. It made a teacher's efficiency record during the year the basis of re-election or failure of re-election. The proposed amendment leaving out the merit clause will result in a return to the old 'pull' system. This is the experience of the past. Human nature has not changed. Return to the old conditions would be certain."

## NOW THE COLONEL KNOWS HOW PROGRESSIVE PARTY FELT

New York, June 14.—Col. Roosevelt today suffered from a severe pain in his side and, as a result, frequently pressed his hand against his side near his heart while motoring to the home of his son-in-law, Dr. Richard Derby. He had been to the dock to greet his son, Kermit, and the latter's wife and baby. The colonel said the pain was of no consequence, but he seemed quite ill.

"My father's illness is of no consequence whatever. He will keep his appointments today," said Mrs. Richard Derby, daughter of Col. Roosevelt.

Nina Glower left home because husband wouldn't eat chicken pie. He got divorce.